

Human rights in Albania

30 August 2024

Save the Children in Albania



Situation in Albania

- This statement is delivered on behalf of Child Led Groups “Voice 16+”, Children’s Governance and children’s representatives of Eco Clubs.
- Achievements:
- The Strategy for Climate Change and Action Plan, 2020-2030 is approved.
- Fourth National Communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November 2022 is submitted.

Waste collection – Issue 1

- New developments:
- Approximately 70 % of the population is currently served by waste collection services.
- A low recycling rate.
- Separate collection for recycling is not common.
- The legal framework for waste management is only partially aligned.
- New needs:
- Establishment of an effective funding system to cover all expenses arising from waste management, including providing funding for setting up separate collection systems.

Recommendations – Issue 1

- Prepare waste management plans for 12 districts, including tax collection systems.
- Engage media and civil society to strengthen public awareness related to waste generation.
- Intensify promotional actions for waste reduction

Dioxide carbon – Issue 3

- New developments:
- Albania's revised contribution to mitigation aims to decrease emissions by 18.7 % for 2021-2030.
- New needs:
- Monitoring Data is not reported in real time.
- Monitoring is not carried out during the whole year.
- The 2019 national plan on air quality management does not provide a functional monitoring system.
- Alignment with EU legislation on industrial pollution and risk management is still at an early stage.

Recommendations – Issue 3

- Establish monitoring instruments of air quality in line with EU requirements, in every municipality of Albania.
- Implement mechanism to reduce atmospheric emissions from motor vehicles.
- Undertake actions to monitor and control air pollution caused by construction.
- Develop planning for air quality management at Local Government.

Citizens' awareness raising – Issue 5

- New developments:
- Albania became the 42nd country to sign the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action with young people providing recommendations to Ministry of Tourism and Environment in the framework of COP28 .
- New needs:
- The roadmap for creating an enabling environment for civil society should be implemented.

Recommendations – Issue 5

- Conduct a national long-term awareness raising campaign for adults on the importance of protecting and sustainably using natural resources, through friendly practices such as ecotourism and Eco agriculture.
- Strengthen the coordination of education, environment, climate, sustainable economy, and other pertinent development agendas at global, regional, and national levels.
- Enhance networking between different stakeholder groups to ensure that efforts are mutually supportive and complementary.

Final Remarks

➤ Issue 1: Waste collection

The rapid growth of waste generation in Albania, poses a serious threat to children's health. With only 70% of the population covered by waste collection and low recycling rates, a comprehensive legal framework is urgently needed. Key actions include establishing effective funding and implementing district-specific waste management plans to secure a healthier future.

➤ Issue 3: Dioxide carbon

Albania's efforts to reduce carbon emissions are hindered by delays in air quality strategies and inadequate alignment with EU pollution laws, posing significant public health risks, especially for children. Urgent actions include establishing air quality monitoring, reducing vehicle emissions, controlling construction pollution, and developing local air quality plans to protect public health.

➤ Issue 5: Citizens' awareness raising

Albania's recent steps, including empowering youth as air quality watchdogs, show promising youth engagement in environmental advocacy. However, challenges remain in fostering a supportive civil society environment. Aligning education, environment, and sustainable economy agendas, and enhancing stakeholder collaboration, are key to building a more environmentally conscious society.

Thank you!



**Save the
Children**